

Local Evacuation Planning: Ruakaka, Northland



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Tane Mahuta



Photo credit: www.educationnorthland.org.nz

Northland



0 Miles 50 Miles
0 Km 50 Km

Picture credit: www.nzaccommodationonline.com



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Ruakaka Community

- Low lying coastal community
- Resident population 3100
- Ruakaka, One Tree Point, Marsden Point and Takahiwai
- 4 schools
- Police, Fire and Ambulance
- Approx 200 businesses
- Large residential developments planned
- Marsden Point Oil Refinery
- Other industry
 - Northport
 - Carter Holt Harvey



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Community Response Planning

- Focus in Northland last 5 years
- Aim: increase community resilience at the local level
- Involve community members in the planning process
- Encourage communities to undertake their own risk reduction and problem solving
- Multi-agency local plan
- Empower communities to look after their own
- Hazard education opportunity



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Ruakaka Community Response Plan

- Completed in 2008 and reviewed in 2009
- Covers:
 - The hazards that could affect the community – all hazards approach
 - The plan boundaries and make up of the community
 - The warning systems in place
 - The roles and responsibilities of individuals and agencies within the community
 - The local resources and facilities that will be used in an emergency
 - Contact details for the key players and the community facilities



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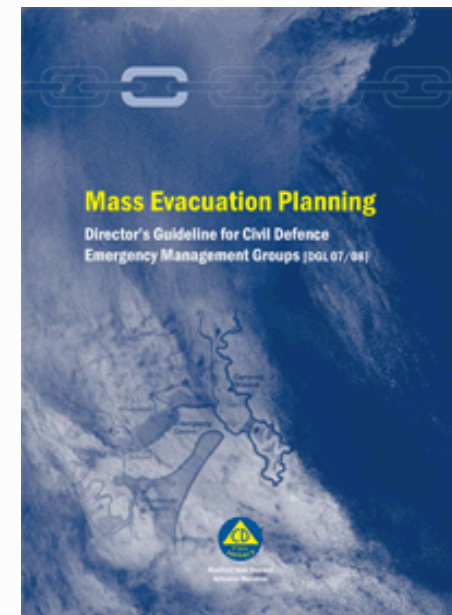


Evacuation Planning

- Tsunami Evacuation Map from GNS
- Ministry of CDEM – Mass Evacuation Planning Guideline
- All hazards Ruakaka local evacuation plan
- Appendix to Community Response Plan
- Started with a focus on tsunami – hazard that had the potential to evacuate the whole community
- Series of multiagency community workshops
- Support from MCDEM



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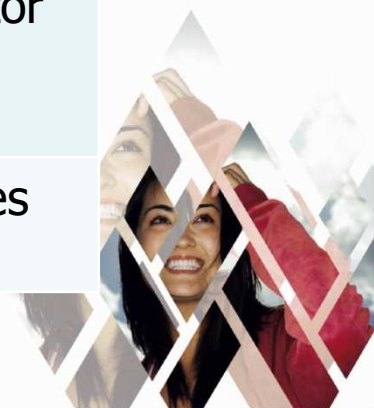


Community Workshops

Date	Workshop Focus
November 2008	Introduction to evacuation planning What planning already exists?
June 2009	Vulnerable groups Warning methods
November 2009	Tsunami Debrief Emergency Services sector Business sector Education sector
December 2009	Emergency Services Roles and Responsibilities



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Agencies Involved

- South Pacific Industry Ltd
- Charter Holt Harvey
- Fire Service
- North Tugz
- New Zealand Refining Company
- Northport Ltd
- Police
- NIWA
- Whangarei Racing Club
- Ruakaka Primary School
- One Tree Point School
- Bream Bay College
- Bream Bay Kindergarten
- Ritchies Buses
- Ruakaka Civil Defence Group
- St John Ambulance
- Marsden Cove Ltd
- Coastguard
- Northland District Health Board
- Marsden Yacht and Boat Club



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Vulnerable Groups

- Schools – One Tree Point Primary school, Ruakaka Primary School, Bream Bay College
- Early Childhood Centres – Small Poppies, Educare, Marsden Play Centre, Kohanga Reo
- Play Groups
- Elderly
- Housebound individuals
- Tourists
- Weekenders
- Camp Groups – Ruakaka, Uretiti
- Disabled groups in the community



Warning Methods

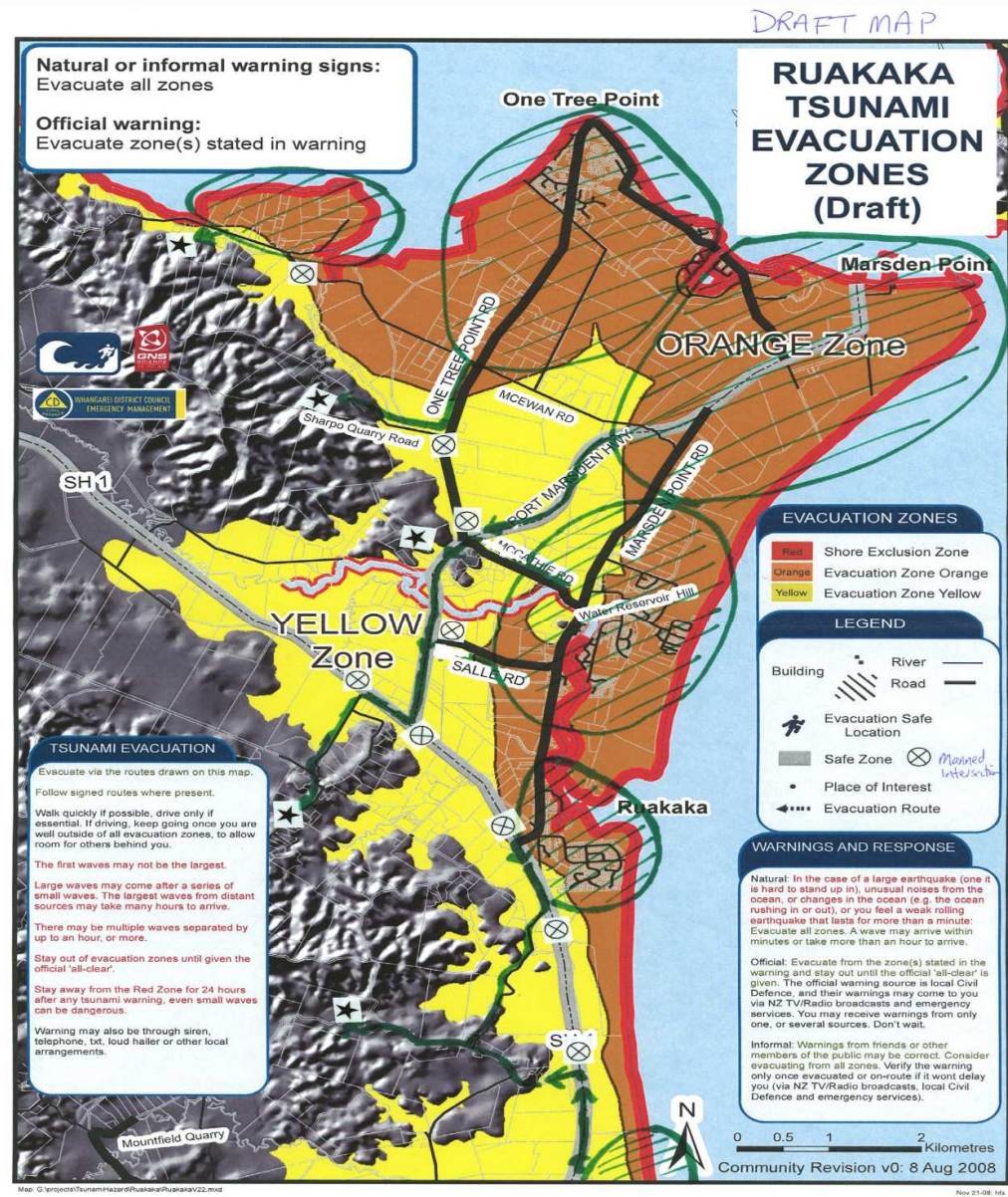
- Council Emergency Contact List
- Utilisation of existing local telephone trees
 - Neighbourhood Support
 - 60's Up club and other clubs
 - Schools and play groups
 - Church groups
- Drive around designated areas with loud hailers
 - Emergency services vehicles
 - Local vehicles (pre-determined sectors)
- Northport Harbour radio, Marine VHF broadcast
- OPTN text messaging system
- Emails within businesses



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Evacuation Routes



Roles and Responsibilities

- Police (Lead Agency)
 - Manned intersections on State Highway 1
- Fire
 - Move Fire Appliances to safety
 - Warn the community
 - Assist with movement of evacuees
- Civil Defence Group volunteers
 - Warning of community
 - Assist with manned intersections
 - Welfare of evacuees
- Businesses/Organisations
 - Provide manpower/resources to assist where possible



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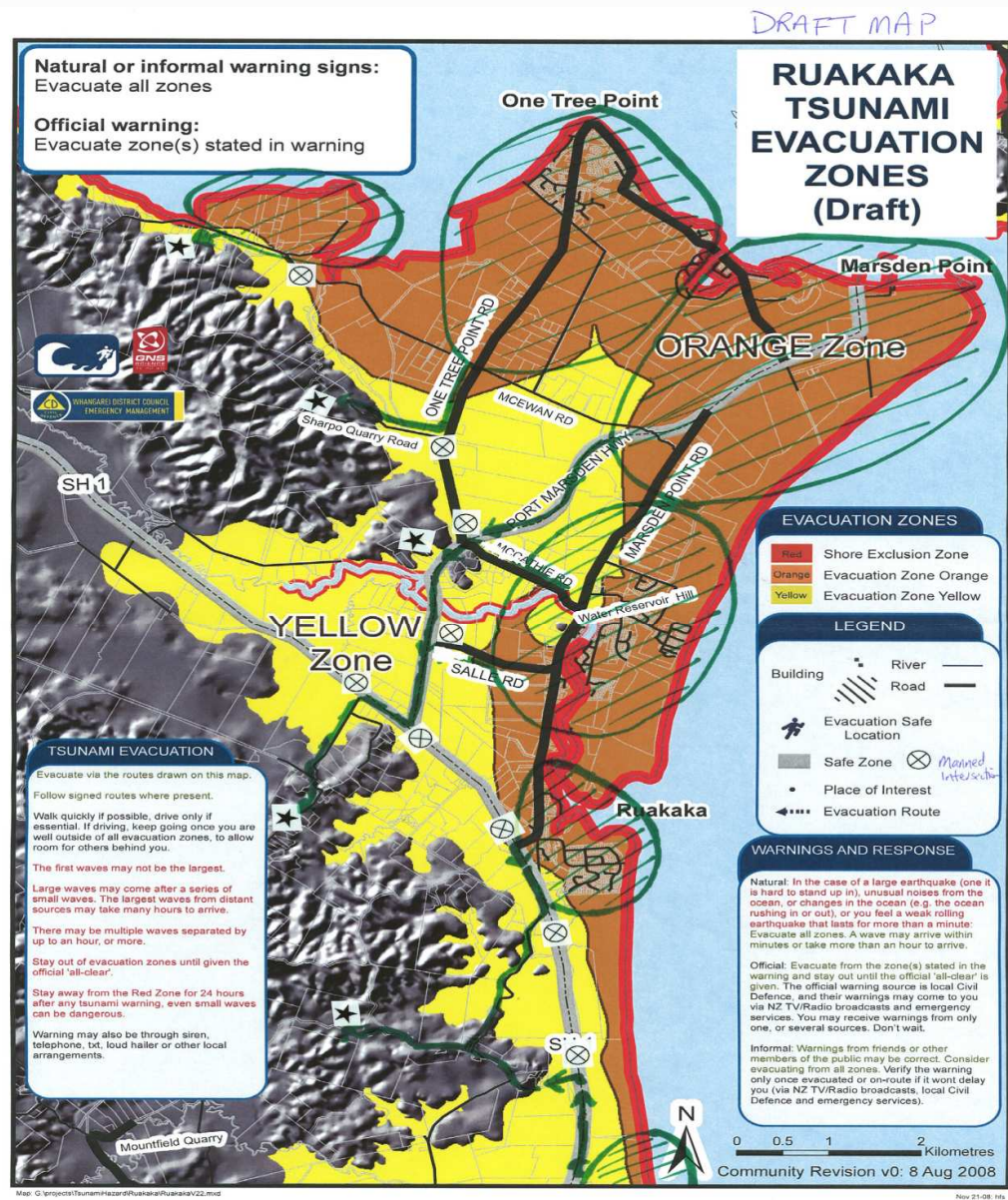


Local Resources

- Emergency Services vehicles and personnel
- Civil Defence Group volunteers
- Communications Equipment
- Local bus company
- Food and supplies to support evacuees
- Businesses offered their equipment and resources



Welfare of Evacuees



Tsunamis!

- September 2009 and February 2010
- Community activated local warning procedures
- Kept people off the beaches
- Debrief



Next Steps

- Finalise Welfare and Roles and Responsibilities components
- Evacuation resource kits and checklists
- Finish draft plan
- Workshop draft plan with community
- Test components of plan during National exercise on 20 October
- Tsunami evacuation signage



Lessons

- Community solving their own problems
- Need a driver at community level to champion project and meetings
- Highlighted issues to agencies about their own planning (BCP's)
- Brought together agencies that did not routinely talk to each other
- Keep it simple
- Planning process is more important than the plan



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Questions



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Creating the ultimate living environment